

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING (DOL)

DRIVER TRAINING SCHOOLS (DTS)

Regular meeting of the Driver Training Schools Advisory Committee: November 13, 2008; Olympia, WA.

Present: Robert Lindsay, Swerve Driver Training; Angie Ward, Washington Traffic Safety Commission; Dan Payne, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; Tana Cochran, DTS Program Manager.
Excused: Jeff Papen and Andy Finley, 911 Driving School.

Others: Mark Mangold, DTS Lead Auditor; Kirsten Games, DTS Administrative Assistant; Ted Larsen, DTS Auditor; Joe Giammona, Swerve Driver Training; Dave Slip, Alexis Driving School; Mike Cassidy, Advantage Driving School; David Sedelmeier, Apex Driving School; Duane Wakefield, Wake's Driving School; Margo Peterson, Margo's Safety 1 Driving School; Lonna Paulsen, DTS Auditor;

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:10; introductions were conducted.

At 9:20 a.m. the committee reviewed the September 11, 2008 minutes; Robert Lindsay moved to approve the minutes; motion passed.

2. Program Updates

Tana announced that some of the Washington Risk Prevention Curriculum for Students CDs were distributed at the November 1 WTSEA/DOL sponsored continuing education conference. More will be distributed at the November 15 PDSA/DOL sponsored continuing education workshop. OSPI will adopt the curriculum as a resource guide. Pedestrian and bicycle information is also available to all commercial and public schools. DOL has been working in cooperation with the *Bicycle Alliance of Washington* and *Feet First*. The Trainer of Trainer curriculum will be ready for distribution in late Spring.

Action required: DOL will distribute the curriculum disks to the schools which did not have representation at either conference. DOL will also coordinate a four hour workshop in January to provide an overview of the curriculum. Continuing Professional Development will be given to those in attendance.

Action required: Tana will research the cost of printing for the pedestrian flyers. The Bicycle Alliance will continue to provide and pay for the bicycle flyers.

3. Legislative Update

The Advisory Committee had a work session on September 11 to review and revise RCW 46.82. Owners and instructors will have an opportunity to provide input as well by December 5. Three areas of interest are a possible change in the branch radius from 35 miles to 75 miles. Another is a proposed surety bond to protect consumers from schools that close down unexpectedly. The third is the license suspension of seven years for an instructor with an alcohol-related conviction.

House Bill 3069 regarding driver Improvement was also addressed. The committee requested clarification as to whether or not the bill would require a separate instructor license. One component of the bill calls for two more members to the Advisory Committee, ideally to include representatives from Eastern Washington. The goal is for driver improvement to be a self-sufficient program. The intent of the bill is to regulate driver improvement programs for accountability and acceptability by the courts.

The Stakeholders group has been led by Greg Cupper from the National Traffic Safety Institute. Further clarification of the bill will be defined in the WAC.

Action required: Tana will research the licensing issue and report back to the committee.

Action required: Define the WAC.

The Driver Training Schools team is working to obtain baseline information and statistical information on teen fatalities and then target specific areas to focus on in the student and instructor curriculums. Parent involvement has been identified as a critical component of traffic safety education for intermediate drivers. Concern was expressed because the Department doesn't enforce the 50 hour parent taught requirement.

Action required: Tana, who is also a member of the At-Risk Driver Task Force, will bring statistics to the December or January meeting.

4. DOL Conference/Workshop

The program received very positive feedback from the November 1 conference. Almost 200 instructors and/or owners attended. The November 15 workshop is expected to be just as well received.

5. Goals for 2009

New Advisory Council membership will be announced in December. At that time 2009 goals will be established. One hot topic is that of a two-tiered teaching structure which would enable instructors to begin behind-the-wheel instruction prior to completing all 100 required hours of training. OSPI utilizes a 'conditional' license but its overall structure differs from the commercial school structure.

Action required: The next meeting of the DTS Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in OB2 room SL03.

6. Adjournment at 12:00 p.m.